

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Celebration and Gospel Renewal
The Sundays of Pentecost—Ordinary Time
12 August 2018

Worship is a response to the love of God that brings us out of darkness into his light. The rhythm and flow of the service reflects this present reality as God calls his people and reveals himself, forgives their sins, teaches them from his Word, the Bible, feeds them, and then sends them out to live what they have learned.

This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE AND REVEALS HIMSELF

God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.

Prelude, Announcements & Preparation

Introit—Give Thanks to God the Lord, Vs I



Text: Susan H. Peterson, 1999; Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 34:I-5, 8, 15

Pastor I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

All: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

Pastor I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

All: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

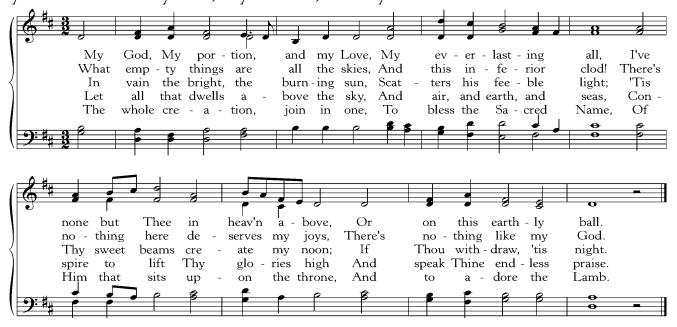
Pastor The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

Hymn of Praise—Come, Christians Join to Sing



Text: Christian H. Bateman, 1843; Music: MADRID, Traditional Spanish Melody, Arr David Evans, 1927.

Hymn of Praise—My God, My Portion, and My Love



New Testament Reading—Philippians I:27-30

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE & RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Sung Response—Search Me, O God



Text: J. Edwin Orr, 1936; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2018. © 2018 Greyfriars Press, Used by Permission.

Corporate Confession of Sin-based on Psalm 81:6-9, II-I4, I6

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Like the people of Israel,

You relieved our shoulders of our burden. You freed our hands.

All: In distress we called, and You delivered us. You answered our prayers.

Pastor: You call us to hear You as You admonish us, but we are slow to listen.

All: There are strange gods among us. We bow to the idols in our hearts.

Pastor: Would that we would listen to Your voice; that we would submit to You.

All: You give us over to our stubborn hearts to follow our own counsels.

Pastor: Oh that we would listen to You and walk in Your ways.

All: Subdue our enemies; subdue our hearts and thoughts to conform to Your desires.

Pastor: Feed us with the finest wheat and satisfy us with honey from the rock.

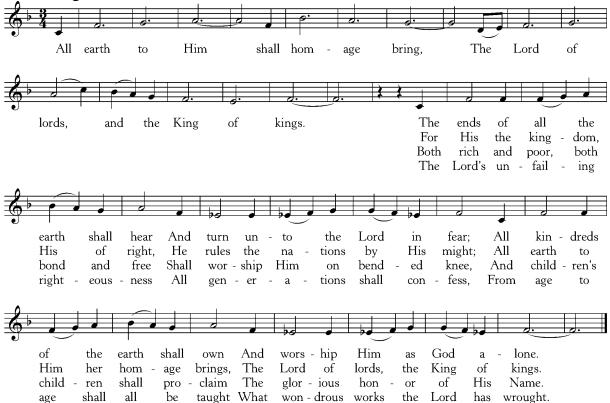
Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—Romans 5:I-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

+++Latecomers are Welcome to be Seated+++

Psalm for August—Psalm 22:27-31 All Earth to Him



Missions Report—New College Franklin

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

The Reading of the Word—Genesis 12:10-13:4

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹ When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, ¹² and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake." ¹⁴ When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵ And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶ And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

¹⁷ But the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸ So Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go." ²⁰ And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

13 So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.

²Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ³ And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, ⁴ to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord.

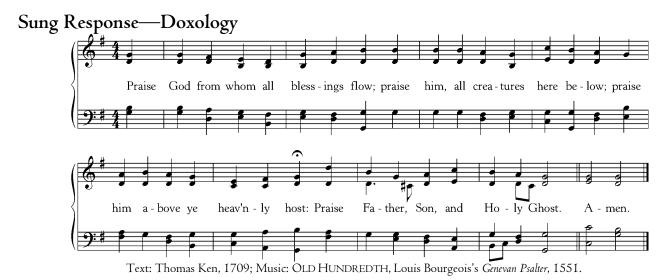
Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—New Beginnings: A Study of Genesis, part 18

The Struggle of Faith

—Nate Shurden, Pastor



Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven

and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church,

The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* "Catholic" refers to the universal church of God's people throughout all time and from all places

Sung Response—Let Glory Be to God on High



CCLI#11121087 Text: From the Liturgy of St. James & an 8th Century manuscript (Gloria in excelsis Deo); Music: Greyfriars Press, 2018.

Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You can find some sample prayers on the next page. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

At Cornerstone, we come forward to receive communion. You may take the bread at the first table and then proceed to either side for the wine/grape juice.

Hymn of Communion—My Faith Has Found a Resting Place



Text: Lidie H. Edmunds, 1891; Music: LANDAS, Andre Gretry, 1741-1831, Arr. by William J. Kirkpatrick, 1891.

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment. Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Hymn of Communion—Jesus, I am Resting, Resting



Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise—Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer



CCLI #11121087 ©2002 Thankyou Music, Text: Margaret Becker, 2002; Music: Keith Getty, 2002

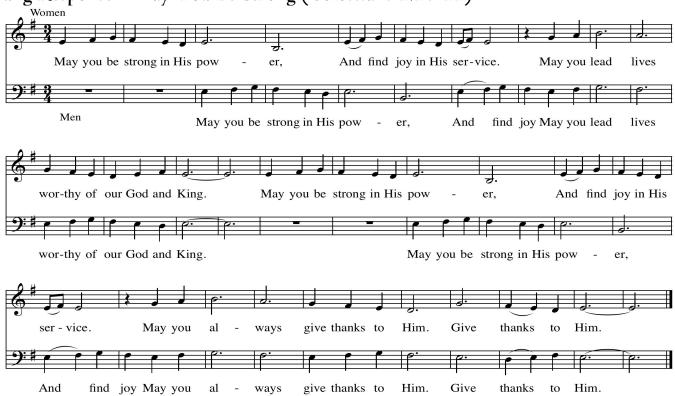
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Sung Response—May You Be Strong (Colossians I:10-11)



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Prayer Focus— New College Franklin echoes the church's dedication to discipleship in all spheres of life, and reflects the commitment to equip the next generation to be a faithful presence in the world. New College Franklin is a four-year, classical, Christian liberal arts college, granting a bachelor of arts degree in the liberal arts, and employing a discipleship model of education. New College students are actively engaged in the life of the church and broader community and are immensely grateful for the church's encouragement of the college.

- Pray for the many special events planned for this coming year as we celebrate our tenth anniversary.
- Pray for the new students preparing to join us this fall as well as the returning students.
- Pray that the faculty and staff can continue to shepherd students intellectually, vocationally, morally, and spiritually.
- Pray for financial support to provide scholarships for students, and to position the college for this next season of growth.



Taking the Message Home

Today's message, "The Struggle of Faith" is taken from Genesis 12:10-13:4. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- If Genesis I2:I-9 reveals Abram the man of faith, Genesis I2:I0-20 reveals Abram the man of fear. Read back through the passage and identify the worldly circumstances (there's more than one!) that led Abram to fear?
- Underneath our worldly fears is a lack of faith in God. Where do you see that in the passage? How
 is this true in your own life right now?
- In today's message, Pastor Nate said, "Operating in fear leads to faithless strategies." How is this principle illustrated in Genesis 12:10-20? What faithless plans or "strategies" do you use to try and manage, cope, or overcome fear?
- Eric Alexander says that true faith, "Believes God is sufficient." If you believed God was truly sufficient, how would that change things for you right now? What is keeping you from believing that God is sufficient?
- Reread Genesis 13:1-4. How does this text show the way back from fear to faith? How is the Lord
 calling you to make the journey from fear to faith today? Take time right to begin that journey in
 prayer with those around you.

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Presbyterian Church in America

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version